

In Memory of
Able Seaman GRIFFIN WALTERS

Name: Griffin Walters
Service Branch: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
Unit: Hawke Battalion.
Rank: Able Seaman
Died Date: 25 Aug 1918
Cause Of Death: Missing, assumed killed in action
Burial: Vis-en-Artois Memorial (MR 16)
Service Number: R/5985



*Image and information courtesy of Graham Cope.
Also thanks to Michelle Brooks for submitting the
photo in the first place.*

Griffin Walters was born in Codnor on 27th May 1899, his fathers name was Joseph who was a coal miner and his mothers name Elizabeth (nee Painter). The 1901 census records Griffin living on Needham Street with his mother and Sisters Elizabeth and Alice and brothers Tom and Jack.
By 1911 he was living on Mill lane with his mother who was by now a widow and his brother Jack and his cousin Alfred Slack.

Griffin entered military service on 14th August 1917; he was drafted to the British Expeditionary Force on 22nd April 1918 before he was eventually assigned to Hawke Battalion on 11th May 1918

Hawke Battalion was part of a Royal Navy Brigade of surplus reserves who were not assigned to any ships but instead fought on land.

Hawke battalion took part in the battle of Albert in Northern France during 1918, which was the first phase of the 2nd battle of the Somme. The allied army eventually took control of the town of Albert on 23rd August 1918 but continued to make hard fought progress over the next couple of days towards the town of Bapaume, it was during this period that Griffin was killed.

The success of the early allied attack eventually resulted in the German Army being pushed back to the Hindenburg Line, from which they had launched their spring offensive.

Griffins brother Jack was considered his next of kin at the time, but Jack died in November the same year at the age of 24.